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Attorney's Docket 071469-0308803
Client Reference: PC0240A2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
STEVEN T. FINK

Confirmation No: 3335

Application No.: 10/807,383

Group Art Unit: 2829

Filed: March 24, 2004

Examiner:

Title: APPARATUS FOR MONITORING THE CONNECTION STATE OF
CONNECTORS AND A METHOD FOR USING THE SAME

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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REPLY TO REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTION OF SPECIES

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(Certification of Facsimile Transmission--page 1)

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Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated June 30, 2005, the period for reply being August 1, 2005, due to the intervening weekend, the Applicant hereby provisionally elects the species encompassing Figure 3. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 read on the elected species. This response to requirement for election of species is made with traverse.

MPEP § 808 states: "Every requirement to restrict has two aspects: (A) the reasons (as distinguished from the mere statement of conclusion) why the inventions *as claimed* are either independent or distinct; and (B) the reasons for insisting upon restriction therebetween as set forth in the following sections." (Italics emphasis is in original.)

MPEP § 808.02 states: "The examiner, in order to establish reasons for insisting upon restriction, must show by appropriate explanation one of the following: (A) Separate

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classification thereof; (B) A separate status in the art when they are classifiable together;
(c) A different field of search.”

It is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without a serious burden and that the criteria for a proper requirement for election of species have not been met. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Requirement for Election of Species is improper and must be withdrawn.

Figure 2 illustrates an exploded view of the probe between a plasma source housing and an impedance match network 102. (The Specification at paragraph [0019].) Fig. 3 illustrates a probe contact assembly interface that is more generic than that illustrated in Fig. 2. (The specification at paragraph [0020].) In Fig. 3, the probe contact assembly is not illustrated between the ground pin assembly 116 integrated between the plasma source 106 and the impedance match network 102. (The specification at paragraph [0020].) Fig. 4 illustrates a probe contact assembly interface used in the mating of two cable assemblies. (The specification at paragraph [0021].) Fig. 5 also illustrates a probe contact assembly interface used in the mating of two cable assemblies. (The specification at paragraph [0022].) In Fig. 5, the assembly is similar to that illustrated in Fig. 4 except that a probe adapter 502 is provided for the probe contact assembly 410. (The specification at paragraph [0022].) Fig. 6 illustrates a probe contact assembly interface used in the mating of a cable assembly to an electrical box assembly. (The specification at paragraph [0023].)

In each case, the common feature is the probe, among other features. The difference between the figures lies primarily in the environment within which the probe is employed. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that there is no undue burden on the Examiner to examine each of the species because the examination of the species encompassed by Fig. 3 necessarily will require an examination of the species illustrated in the remaining figures and described by the specification. In other words, it is respectfully

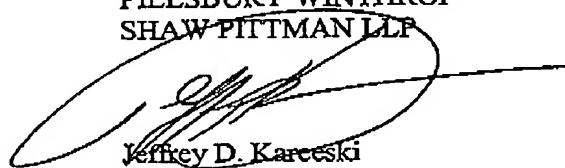
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submitted that the search and examination for the elected species necessarily encompasses the search and examination for non-elected species. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the Election of Species Requirement should be withdrawn to in order to prevent duplicative examination by the Patent Office and unnecessary expense to the Applicants.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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